

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00161 251959Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6397

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS 71

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 161

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EEC

SUBJ: JANUARY 20 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING: ENERGY QUESTIONS,
IRAN, MTN, ACP

REF: (A) USEC 308, (B) USEC 605, (C) STATE 279263, (D) BONN 1139,
(E) PARIS 1956

1. MICHAEL GREENE, COUNSELOR IN CHARGE OF ENERGY AFFAIRS AT IRISH
FOREIGN MINISTRY, CALLED IN EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 24 TO PROVIDE
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00161 251959Z

BRIEFING ON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OF JANUARY 20. GREENE WAS

EXTREMELY APOLOGETIC FOR NOT HAVING CALLED US SOONER FOR BRIEFING AND SAID THAT ON FUTURE OCCASIONS HE HOPED TO BE MORE PROMPT.

2. ENERGY WAS MAIN TOPIC OF JANUARY 20 MEETING. THERE WERE THREE BASIC DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

A. FIRST PAPER BEFORE COUNCIL DEALT WITH NEED FOR COMMUNITY TO ADOPT COMMON POSITION IN IEA AND IN PREPARATION FOR CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE. COUNCIL AGREED THAT WHERE PRIOR COMMUNITY DECISIONS OR GUIDELINES ARE IN EXISTENCE, MEMBERS WILL OBSERVE THEM IN IEA. IN CASES WHERE THERE ARE NO PRIOR DECISIONS OR GUIDELINES THE NINE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND THE COMMISSION (UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IRISH) WILL HOLD CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS IN PARIS PRIOR TO MEETINGS OF IEA GOVERNING BOARD OR MEETINGS OF STANDING GROUPS WHERE ISSUE IN QUESTION IS TO BE DISCUSSED. (GREENE NOTED 17 DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AGREED ON A NUMBER OF ENERGY GUIDELINES TO 1985.) GREENE EMPHASIZED THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THESE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS IN ORDER TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF FRENCH VIEWPOINTS, BUT HE WAS EQUALLY EMPHATIC IN STATING THAT THIS DOES NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY THAT FRENCH ARE TO BE GIVEN VETO POWER.

B. SECOND PAPER (QUOTED IN REF A) DEALT WITH PRACTICAL MATTERS OF CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE. GREENE SAID THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING AT JANUARY 20 MEETING THAT MARCH PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS, NON-INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS, WITH NOT MORE THAN FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH BLOC (AS RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION). THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT LDC'S SHOULD BE REPRESENTED FROM OUTSET. DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, WAS INCONCLUSIVE, AND IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED TO REFER PAPER TO COREPER FOR FURTHER STUDY. IN REFERRING MATTER TO COREPER, GREENE SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS. ONE WAS THAT THIS WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR ADDITIONAL VIEWS TO BE GENERATED AT FEB 5-7 MEETING OF GB. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE SAID, COUNCIL HOPED FOR CLARIFICATION OF USG ATTITUDE. THAT IS, THERE WAS UNCERTAINTY WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED THE DEGREE OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY DESIRED BY USG ON MATTERS OF CONSERVATION AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES AS PRECONDITION TO PREPARATORY MEETING. FINALLY, THERE WAS UNCERTAINTY AS TO USG ATTITUDE TOWARD PROPOSAL THAT PREPARATORY CONFERENCE BE TRIPARTITE

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PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00161 251959Z

(PRODUCERS, INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND LDC'S). SAUVAGNARGUES, ACCORDING TO GREENE, TOLD JANUARY 20 MEETING THAT USG HAD NEVER OBJECTED TO SUGGESTION THAT MEETING BE TRIPARTITE, IMPLICATION BEING THAT USG WOULD GO ALONG WITH SUGGESTION.

C. THIRD PAPER WAS COMMISSION REQUEST FOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF PROPOSAL THAT COMMUNITY UNDERWRITE INVESTMENTS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. COUNCIL DID NOT

TAKE DECISION, BUT ASKED COMMISSION TO PUT FORWARD MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY MEETING OF ENERGY MINISTERS ON FEBRUARY 13.

3. COUNCIL ALSO CONSIDERED QUESTION OF EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. GREENE SAID GERMANS AND FRENCH PRESSED HARD FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL OF PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, AND DANES JOINED IN ON SIDE OF GERMANS AND FRENCH. ITALIANS ALSO SUPPORTED GERMAN/FRENCH POSITION, BUT NO OTHER EC MEMBER INDICATED SUPPORT. CHRISTOPHER SOAMES TOOK STRONG POSITION AGAINST PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, AND SAID THAT COMMUNITY MUST BEAR IN MIND DANGEROUS PRECEDENT THAT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IF IT DECIDES TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS PROPOSAL. SOAMES UNDERSCORED FACT THAT COMMISSION IS NOT HAPPY WITH PROPOSAL AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED. COUNCIL DID NOT TAKE DECISION, BUT SENT PROPOSAL BACK TO COMMISSION FOR FURTHER STUDY. GREENE SAID THAT THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT MATTER MAY BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT FEBRUARY 10/11 COUNCIL MEETING.

4. MTN WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT JANUARY 20 MEETING, BUT COUNCIL WILL DEVOTE ENTIRE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10 TO THE SUBJECT.

5. ACP NOT DISCUSSED DURING JANUARY 20 MEETING. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EC AND ACP ARE TO BE RESUMED JANUARY 30/31.

6. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR FROM GREENE'S REPORT (PARAGRAPH 2-B ABOVE) THAT THERE IS UNCERTAINTY AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS AS TO WHETHER US PRECONDITIONS FOR PREPARATORY MEETING HAVE BEEN MET, ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE NO DOUBT OF THE PRECONDITIONS THEMSELVES. ACTIONS REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTION OR COMMENT WE COULD PASS TO IRISH GOVERNMENT. MOORE

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